

## **Indiana Region 2 Action Plan Framework**

### Introduction

Our region has tremendous educational resources for Career Tech Education and many promising pathways for employment and career development. What is notably lacking is a sustained, pervasive effort to introduce students to potential careers. This gap results in lack of interest or awareness by students and a resulting lack of preparation for the technical educational opportunities and career possibilities available to them. As a result, many students do not pursue promising pathways or they lack direction and contribute to overall low post-secondary completion rates and under employment.

Our region seeks to be the statewide leader in developing, promoting and leveraging Career Exploration opportunities, programs and events for grade 6-12 students. We will accomplish this by coordinating among educators and employers, by maximizing the impact of existing activities and by creating new Career Exploration opportunities.

Our expected outcomes include: better student engagement and motivation; increased utilization of Career Tech Ed programs for key employment categories; increased employer engagement in Career Exploration programs; and increased availability of properly educated and credentialed candidates for permanent employment.

### Key Steps

1. Complete description of initial concept
2. Conduct survey to identify current efforts and constraints (student hours, etc.) by:
  - a. Career Tech Ed directors
  - b. Guidance counselors
  - c. Union training leaders
3. Create inventory of existing career exploration events held by Chambers, WIB, non-profits, etc.
4. Conduct meeting to refine plan concept or change direction
5. Develop formal plan (strategies, tactics, timetable, budget) and put in place to begin implementation in fall 2015

### How we define the Career Exploration continuum:

1. Career Fairs
2. Site Visits by Students to Employers
3. Job Shadowing
4. Internships/co-ops

Key Employer Segments to Target:

1. Manufacturing
2. Health Care
3. IT
4. Building Trades
5. Commerce (banking, real estate, etc.)
6. Public Service/Military
7. Social Service Philanthropy

Plan Implementation and Outcomes:

1. A series of segment specific career fairs held at a fixed place within the region (e.g., Century Center)
2. Coordination with and region-wide publicity for existing events
3. Region-wide publicity of career exploration resources, including;
  - a. Learn More Indiana
  - b. Drive of Your Life
  - c. My Next Move
  - d. IndianaINTERNnet ([www.IndianaINTERN.net](http://www.IndianaINTERN.net))
  - e. Dream It. Do It.
4. Augment resources available to educators and career counselors
5. Recruitment of employers willing to host site visits, job shadowing and internships
6. Support for employers in designing and conducting CE programs/events

Resources required:

1. Initially, investigate resources provided by DWD through CELL
2. Determine availability and applicability of State RWC grants
3. Determine required resources for hands-on coordination and development of promotion and marketing materials, event planning and execution, employer engagement and support
4. Determine need for any private fund-raising
5. Engage marketing communications and other outside resources as required by Plan tactics